

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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62

ACTION SS-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 /015 W

----- 042983

R 161726Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5574

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7234

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FROM KUBISCH

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOM

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE COMPROMISE OF SENSITIVE TELEGRAM

1. NOT LONG AGO YOU SENT US A MESSAGE REQUESTING THAT WE SCALE DOWN OUR USE OF THE EXDIS DESIGNATOR WHENEVER POSSIBLE. YOU EXPLAINED THE REASONS AND I UNDERSTAND THEM. INDEED, IN RECENT MONTHS WE HAVE MADE A MAJOR EFFORT IN THIS EMBASSY TO EASE UP ON CLASSIFICATION AND DISTRIBUTION RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON MESSAGES TRANSMITTED TO WASHINGTON, AS WELL AS ON OUR INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION-- ALWAYS BEARING IN MIND, OF COURSE, APPROPRIATE SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WOULD LIKE TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO A REPORT I HAVE RECEIVED OF THE POSSIBLE COMPROMISE OF A VERY SENSITIVE TELEGRAM REPORTING A CONVERSATION I HAD WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS, IN WHICH I MENTIONED HIM AND ATTRIBUTED REMARKS AND VIEWS TO HIM BY NAME AND DISCUSSED IMPORTANT TACTICS WE WERE FOLLOWING IN THE HIGHLY IMPORTANT US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN GOING ON. THE MESSAGE WAS ATHENS 6164, IT WAS SECRET EXDIS ADDRESSED TO SECSTATE FOR ACTION AND INFO TO EMBASSY ANKARA AND EMBASSY PARIS
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FOR THE SECRETARY.

3. I HAVE NOW BEEN INFORMED THAT THE MESSAGE WAS READDRESSED AS DTG 221183Z JUN 76 FROM GENERAL BROWN, WASHDC WITH INFO TO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN, GERMANY; USNMR SHAPE AND USDELMC BRUSSELS, AND THAT IT WAS FURTHER READDRESSED AS USCINCEUR 230656Z JUN 76 TO USAREUR. I HAVE ALSO BEEN INFORMED THAT THE MESSAGE WAS PLACED IN A "U.S. CLASSIFIED MESSAGE READING FILE AND LEFT UNATTENDED BETWEEN 1530-2105 HOURS ON JUNE 23, 1976, IN THE RECEPTION AREA OF THE DANISH DELEGATION TO NATO, BRUSSELS BELGIUM," WAS TURNED OVER DURING THE NIGHT TO THE OFFICE OF NATO SECURITY FOR SAFEKEEPING AND NOT RETURNED TO U.S. CONTROL UNTIL 0935, JUNE 24.

4. I CANNOT BEGIN TO TELL YOU HOW DISMAYED I AM AT THIS REPORT. I HOPE THAT IT IS NOT TRUE BUT AM AFRAID THAT IT IS. HAVING SEEN ONE OF MY MOST SENSITIVE CABLES QUOTED BY AN AMERICAN SYNDICATED COLUMNIST WHEN I WAS CHARGE' IN PARIS SEVERAL YEARS AGO AND SEEING MY OUTRAGED FRENCH SOURCE AND MOST OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE QUAI D'ORSAY DRY UP IMMEDIATELY AS A RESULT, I AM TERRIBLY WORRIED ABOUT BITSIOS' AND THE GREEK GOVERNMENTS REACTION IF ATHENS 6164 HAS INDEED BEEN COMPROMISED AND BECOMES PUBLIC. THERE WILL BE A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF DAMAGE TO OUR TACTICAL AND NEGOTIATING POSITION ON THE US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS EVEN IF IT DOES NOT BECOME PUBLIC BUT MERELY COMES TO THEIR ATTENTION PRIVATELY.

5. I THINK I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU SENT YOUR EARLIER MESSAGE SUGGESTING THAT WE EASE UP WHEREEVER POSSIBLE ON THE CLASSIFICATION AND DISTRIBUTION RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON MESSAGES AT THEIR POINT OF ORIGIN, AND I AM NOT SUGGESTING HERE THAT THE EMPLOYMENT OF SUCH RESTRICTIONS WILL PROTECT OUR SENSITIVE COMMUNICATIONS IN EACH AND EVERY CASE. THE PROBABLE COMPROMISE OF ATHENS 6164, WHICH WAS EXDIS, IS -- MOST REGRETABLY -- A FINE CASE IN POINT. HOWEVER, I THOUGHT I SHOULD BRING THE FOREGOING TO YOUR ATTENTION FOR WHATEVER ACTION YOU MAY CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE TO TAKE AND TO LET YOU KNOW THAT SUCH FURTHER RE-DISTRIBUTION OF THIS EMBASSY'S MOST SENSITIVE CONFIDENTIAL

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MESSAGES--THUS INCREASING THE POSSIBILITIES OF COMPROMISE--HARDLY INSPIRES CONFIDENCE IN US AT THIS END. INDEED, IT LEADS ME TO SUGGEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER THE ADVISABILITY OF CODING OR DOUBLE-ENCRYPTING THE NAMES AND POSITIONS OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT INTERLOCUTORS.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: n/a
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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